Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13 at line 31 with the following amended paragraph:

After the finish coated catheter stock **64** is formed in step **43**, the tube is cut or divided in step **44** at selected locations to produce individual reinforced catheters **66** (Fig. 4a) having the length and other properties desired. Using this method, each individual reinforced catheter has an inner wall formed by the PTFE material **51**, a wire reinforcement member **54**, an intermediate portion formed by a relatively soft, e.g. 40D, material **58** (first flexible outer coating), and an outer wall portion formed by the relatively hard, e.g. 70D, finish coating **62** (second flexible outer coating).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14 at line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

The preferred embodiment of the reinforced catheter **68** produced after the grinding step is shown in Figure 4b. The catheter has a first end **67** and a second end **69**. The ground end of the reinforced catheter **68** defines a flexible distal (second) portion **72**, ~~and~~ an opposite relatively less flexible proximal (first) portion **74**, and a first transition area **73** therebetween. The distal (second) portion **72** of each catheter **68** is selectively ground to a reduced diameter relative to the proximal (first) portion **74** or main body portion to provide the desired flexibility of the catheter **68** (step **46**). The grinding operation is selectively a one of a step grinding operation or a smooth long taper grinding operation.